

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are present in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 4 and 6 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

It is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered into the official file in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application into condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not believe the application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the amendments for the purposes of appeal. The amendments to the claims simplify the issues on appeal by addressing the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the drawings do not show the valve body press foot extending from a central portion of each valve blade toward a circumferential direction. In addition, the Examiner asserts that the drawings do not show the valve foot being disposed from a central portion 51 to circumferential directions as described in the specification.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 and the present specification have been amended to clarify that the valve body press foot extends in a radial direction. Applicant submits that the

amendments to claim 1 and the specification do not involve new matter because at least FIG. 3B of the present application as originally filed illustrates the press foot 62 extending from the central portion 51 of the valve body 5 in a radial direction.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawing objection has been obviated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The specification stands objected to because it is unclear if a single press foot or a plurality of press feet are described at page 9, line 5 and page 9, line 20, respectively. As the Examiner will note, the present specification has been amended to clarify that one valve body press foot is being referred to. In view of this, the specification objection has been obviated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that there is insufficient and antecedent basis for the recitations “the valve body contacting face” and “the back face of the valve body covering” in claim 1. In addition, the Examiner questions how the press foot can extend from a central portion toward a circumferential direction.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the recitations mentioned by the Examiner. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the valve body press foot extends from a central portion of each valve blade toward a radial direction.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 are definite and clear. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 have been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant greatly appreciates this indication by the Examiner.

As mentioned above, claim 1 has been amended to address the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, claims 1-8 should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

Application No. 10/677,381
Amendment dated February 20, 2007
Reply to After Final Office Action of October 20, 2006

Docket No.: 0037-0212P

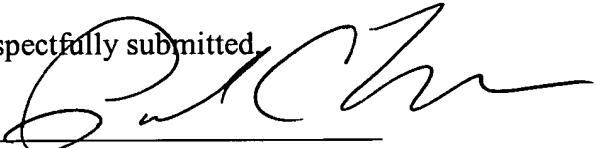
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In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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